

AFTERMATH OF THE AVAR

in concrete cases the British proceeded alone. This was a gradual process and therefore did not threaten British security or position. Moreover it demonstrated the peaceful intentions of Great Britain to the Iranians and at the same time tested the attitude and trends of Soviet diplomacy.

Among the points agreed to by the Russians was the early evacuation of the Teheran area. This meant the liquidation of air-force maintenance units and of land troops on both the Russian and the British sides. Beginning with August 7, 1945, both sides complied with this agreement. Yet despite its appearance of equality the agreement favored Russia, for the Russians had replaced their uniformed troops with a sw^Tarm of plain-clothes men estimated at several thousand in Teheran alone. Furthermore, military offices attached to the Soviet Embassy remained in Teheran, including the X.K.VJX /secret police) headquarters. Thus, although the bulk of troops left the Teheran area by the middle of September, the possibility of Soviet military action in the capital was not completely removed.

Meanwhile the British were discontinuing their own activities one by one. Their Public Relations Bureau staff underwent visible reduction. On March 21, 1945, the British officially announced the termination of their information programs on the Radio Teheran. And, following an agreement with the Russians, they ended on September 1 censorship of mail and news by their own censors. In all these fields the Soviet side did not reciprocate. Instead it acted with considerable delay and obvious reluctance to withdraw. The Russians did not honor the agreement on censorship for a number of

weeks after the British withdrew. Immediately after
 the closing of
 British programs the Soviet Embassy requested and
 obtained additional radio time, which it "farmed out" to the
 Polish Lublin
 Communists. These radio programs continued from
 Teheran for a
 good many months after the British ended theirs.
 There was no
 apparent reduction in the Soviet propaganda
 personnel. On the con-
 trary, the number of Soviet-sponsored shows,
 exhibitions, and similar
 activities increased. The summer of 1945 witnessed
 the visit of Soviet
 Moslem dignitaries to Iran, the consequences of
 which were de-
 scribed in an earlier chapter. This visit was followed
 by a tour by a
 Soviet trade union delegation, which went to all
 important industrial

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